ISSN 0712-7774

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

66
SEP

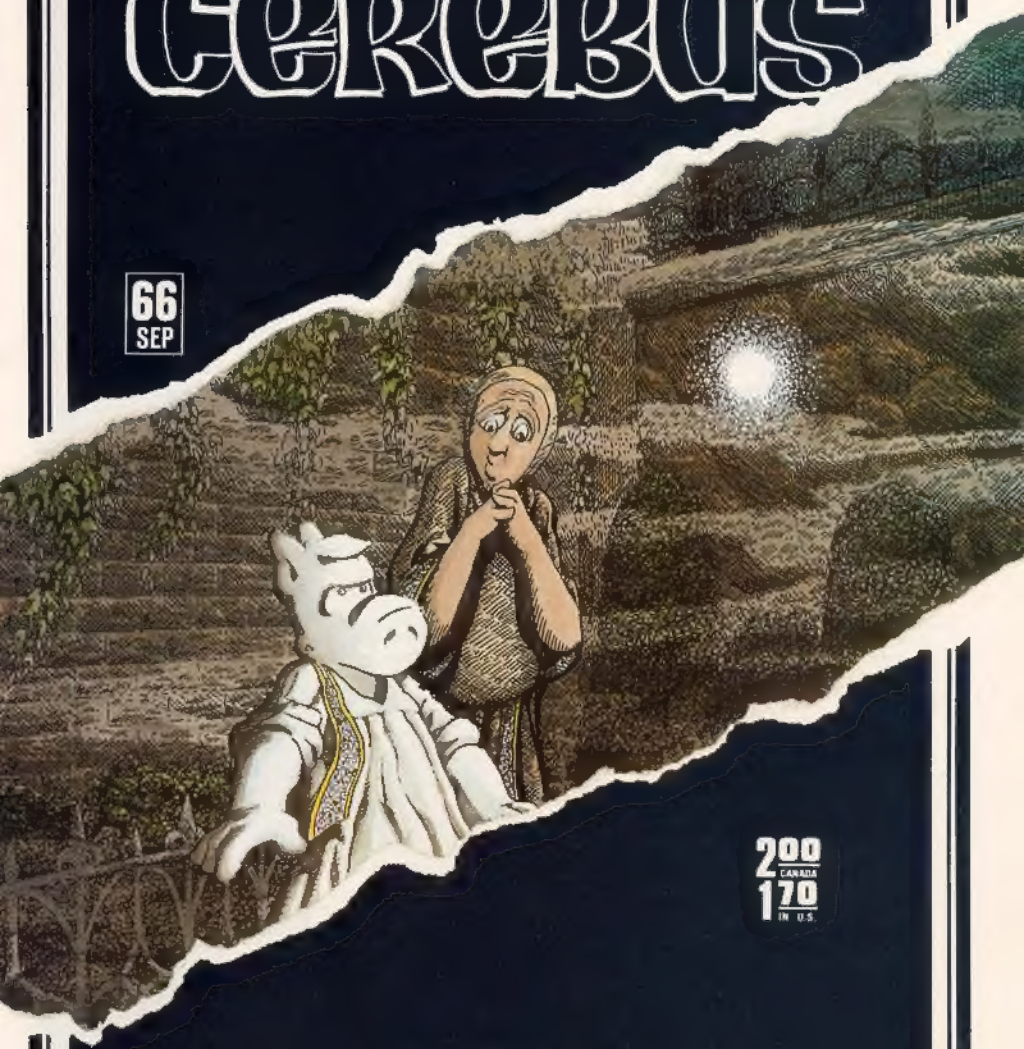

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PHOTO BY EVAN KATTEN

A Note from the Publisher

I've had some questions come in the mail regarding where they can order Dave's black and white portfolio with Schanes & Schanes, "Six Deadly Sins". Having phoned around, it appears that Bud Plant and Pacific Comics (their addresses are on the right in the black box) are your best bet. If you have trouble getting something that either A-V publishes/ed or Dave did, let me know. If I can, I'll find out where you can get it.

Last month I said that Swords of Cerebus, Volume Six would be out in late October. Having discovered that Volume Five appears to be sold out as well, we will be shipping a second printing of it at the same time as volume six. I must say that this book sold out in record time. Of course, Barry Windsor-Smith, whose work was the starting inspiration for Dave, did a wonderful job on the front and back covers. Dave and I were knocked out by both the covers and Barry's story. So if you haven't seen it, and your local shop doesn't have it, ask for it. It will be out in early November.

A piece of bad news this month is that we have had cancel our plans to publish Joshua Quagmire's Cutey Bunny. It's an unfortunate part of this business, but there were some contractual obligations that we just couldn't agree on. The market is getting tougher, as I'm sure many of you are aware. Dave and I both like Joshua's book and hope he will continue to publish it in some form. Because Cutey Bunny #4 was already drawn, I am sure you will see it out before Christmas. Be sure to watch for any ads or plugs in Cerebus. We will be sure to let you know when and how it does see publication.

On a slightly different note - normalman's cover price will be increasing to $2.00 US and $2.50 Cdn with issue #6 in November. My expectations were somewhat unrealistic when I had thought we could put out a colour book for the same price as a black and white one. The costs are higher than I had expected, hence the price increase. I am counting on you to help us out in this. Valentino is a talented man, but I feel that with this price increase we can finally be assured that he's getting fair compensation for his work.

Finally, this past month saw the passing of Phil Seuling, a man who is responsible for many changes in the comic market. Phil was A-V's first distributor, when we were a totally unknown factor. He also took a chance with another fledging self-publication, Elfquest. I don't know how many of you are familiar with Phil's role in distribution, let alone the fact that he was putting on conventions in New York before many people were even aware of "the fan market". Phil was an innovator, a man before his time, as stubborn in his beliefs as he was generous in his help. I had intended this editorial as a "welcome back" to Phil and Sea Gate when I started it; as we had just renewed our business relationship with them. I knew Phil had been ill, but somehow I couldn't quite believe even death could claim a man as full of life as Phil was. So ready to take on the world that he would do what he believed, no matter what the odds. Instead, I write to say goodbye. You are missed already, Phil.

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 66 SEPT. 1984

President: Dave Sim

Publisher: Deni Loubert

Assistant to the Publisher: Karen McKiel

Cover Separations Mark Spencer

Circulation: 21,000

Distributors:
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CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in winter, spring and fall.

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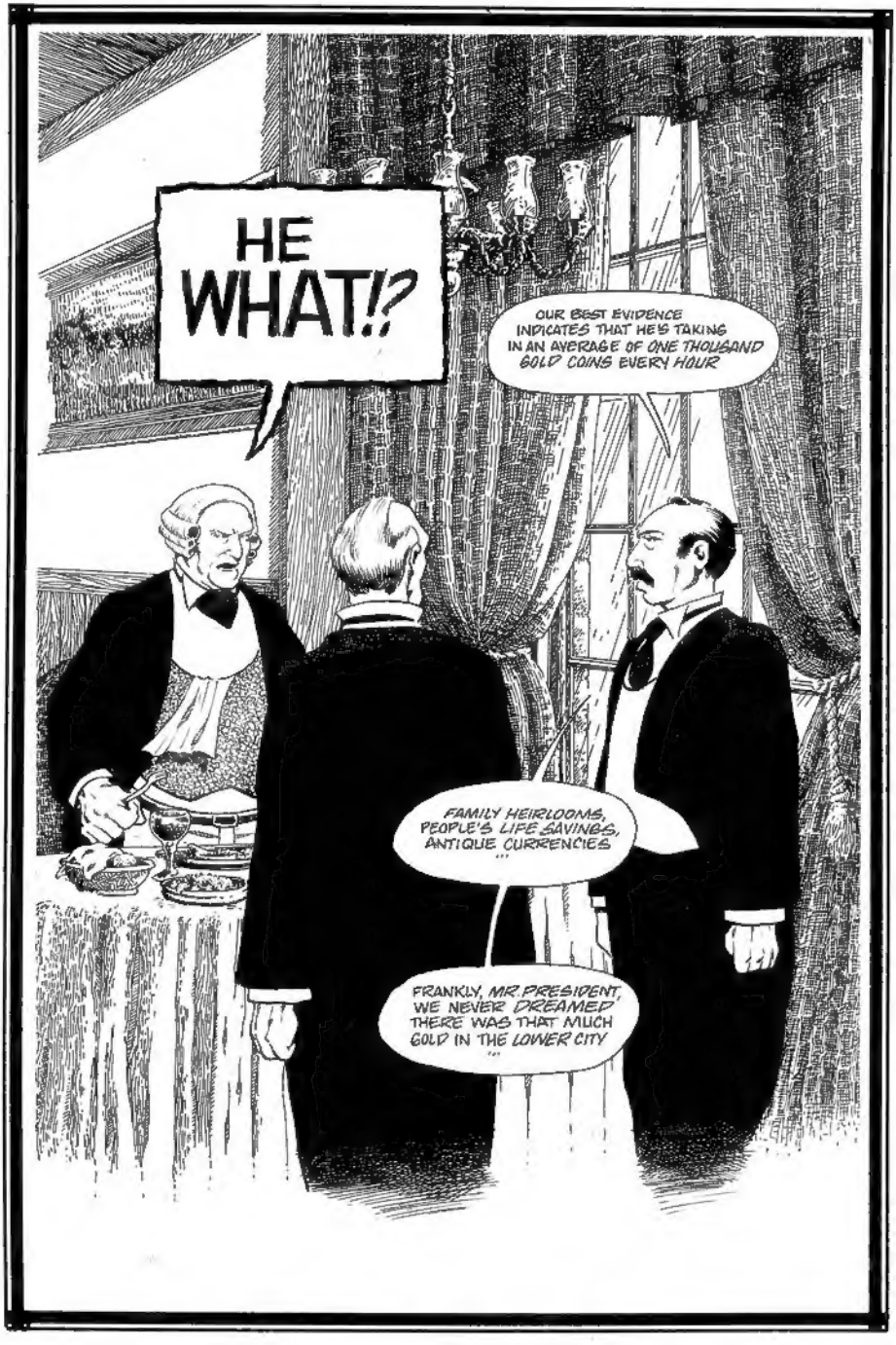
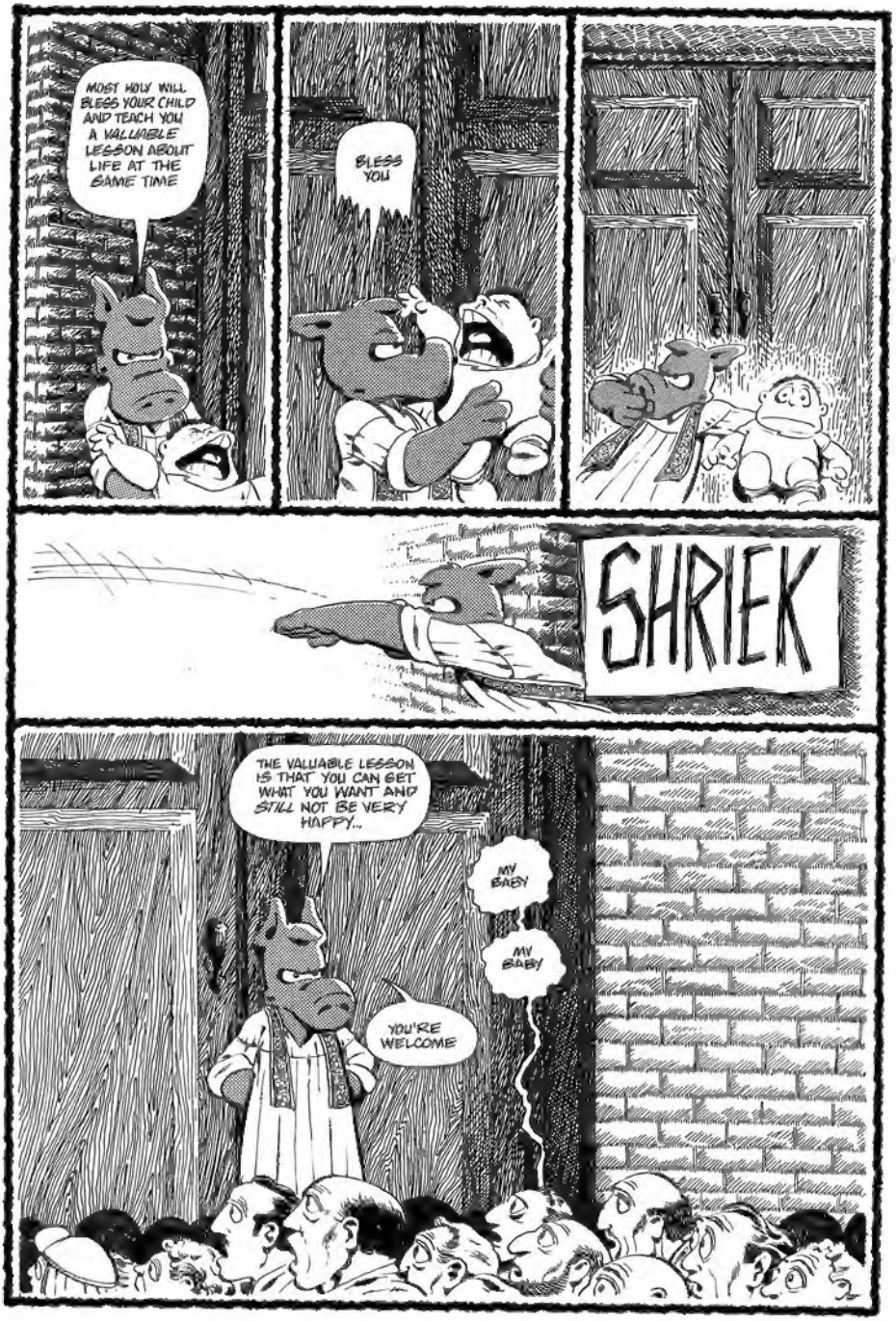
THE THRILL of agony AND the VICTORY of defeat

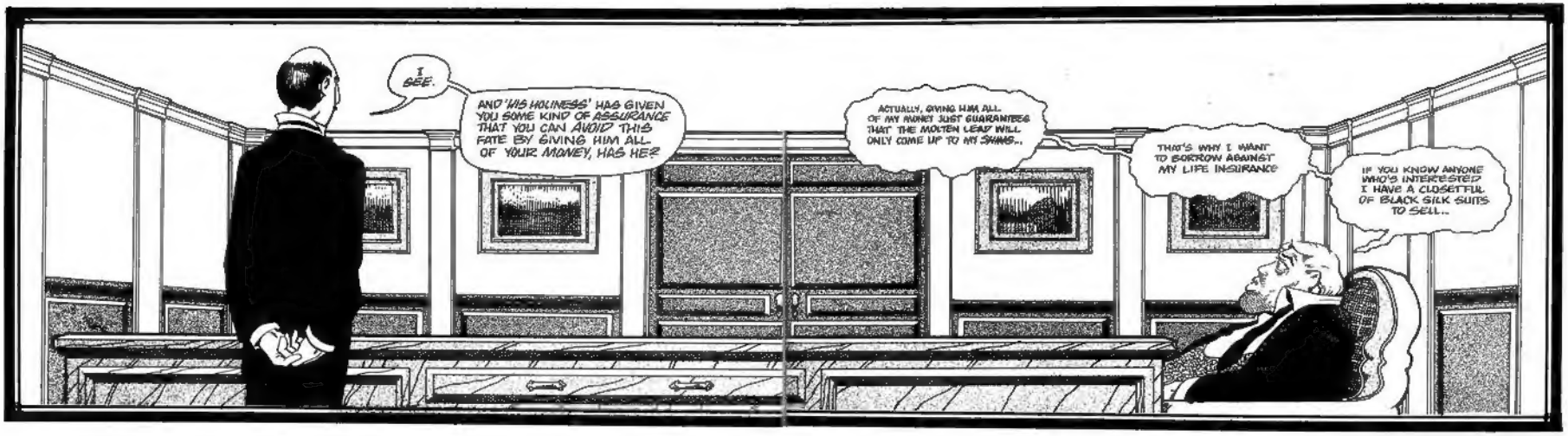
BACKGROUNDS BY GERHARD

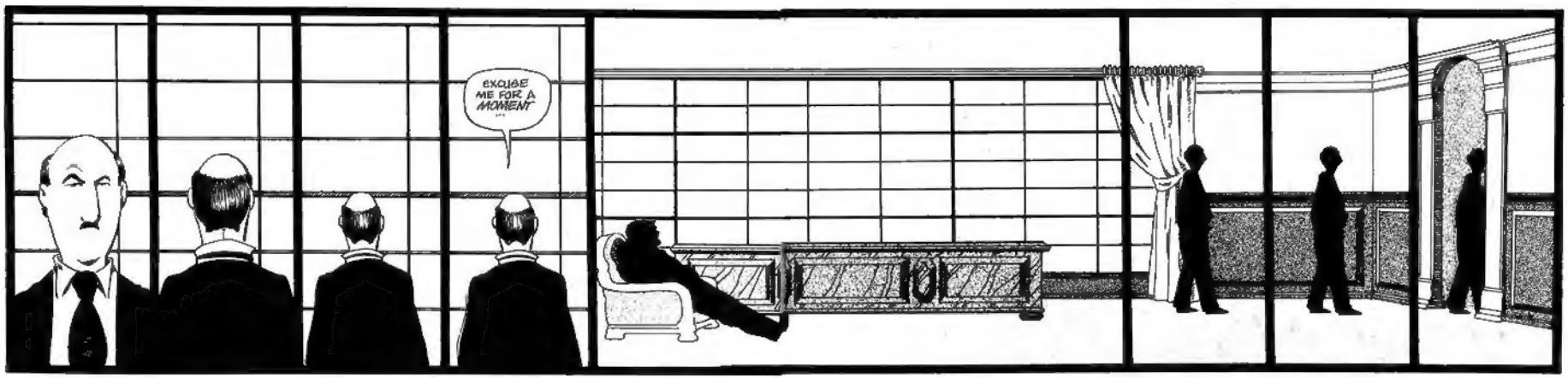

HE WHAT!?
OUR BEST EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT HE'S TAKING IN AN AVERAGE OF ONE THOUSAND GOLD COINS EVERY HOUR
FAMILY HEIRLOOMS, PEOPLE'S LIFE SAVINGS, ANTIQUE CURRENCIES ...
FRANKLY, MR. PRESIDENT, WE NEVER DREAMED THERE WAS THAT MUCH GOLD IN THE LOWER CITY ...

TARIM IS NOT IMPRESSED. AS A MATTER OF FACT TARIM IS DISGUSTED...
BLESS MY CHILD MOST HOLY...
TARIM GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELVES--TO SAVE THE WORLD
PLEASE BLESS MY BABY ...
AND ALL YOU CAN COME UP WITH IS A LOUSY FIFTY THOUSAND GOLD COINS IN A DAY AND A HALF
OH PLEASE PLEASE
IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO, YOU MIGHT AS WELL FIND A CAMPFIRE SOMEWHERE AND JUMP IN
BLESS HIM BLESS HIM
BELIEVE MOST HOLY, IT'S A MUCH LESS PAINFUL WAY TO GO THAN WHAT TARIM HAS IN STORE FOR YOU
PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE


MOST HOLY WILL BLESS YOUR CHILD AND TEACH YOU A VALUABLE LESSON ABOUT LIFE AT THE SAME TIME
BLESS YOU
SHRIEK
THE VALUABLE LESSON IS THAT YOU CAN GET WHAT YOU WANT AND STILL NOT BE VERY HAPPY...
MY BABY
MY BABY
YOU'RE WELCOME

I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, LORD DRAPER, THAT IT IS THE BANK'S RULES -- NOT MINE...
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL ON YOUR UNITED FELDWAR STATES BONDS, AGENTS' FEES ON LIQUIDATING YOUR LAND HOLDINGS AND THE.... CURRENT.... DEMAND (HMPH) FOR GOLD COINS, WE WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU...
FINE
TELL ME, LORD DRAPER, DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THE END OF THE WORLD IS AT HAND?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT THESE GOLD COINS -- YOU DO INTEND GIVING THEM TO THAT...
...THAT...
TAP TAP
HIS HOLINESS TOLD ME I'M GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF ETERNITY HIP-DEEP IN MOLTEN LEAD...


I SEE.
AND 'HIS HOLINESS' HAS GIVEN YOU SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE THAT YOU CAN AVOID THIS FATE BY GIVING HIM ALL OF YOUR MONEY, HAS HE?
ACTUALLY, GIVING HIM ALL OF MY MONEY JUST GUARANTEES THAT THE MOLTEN LEAD WILL ONLY COME UP TO MY SHINS...
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BORROW AGAINST MY LIFE INSURANCE
IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO'S INTERESTED? I HAVE A CLOSETFUL OF BLACK SILK SUITS TO SELL...


EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT...

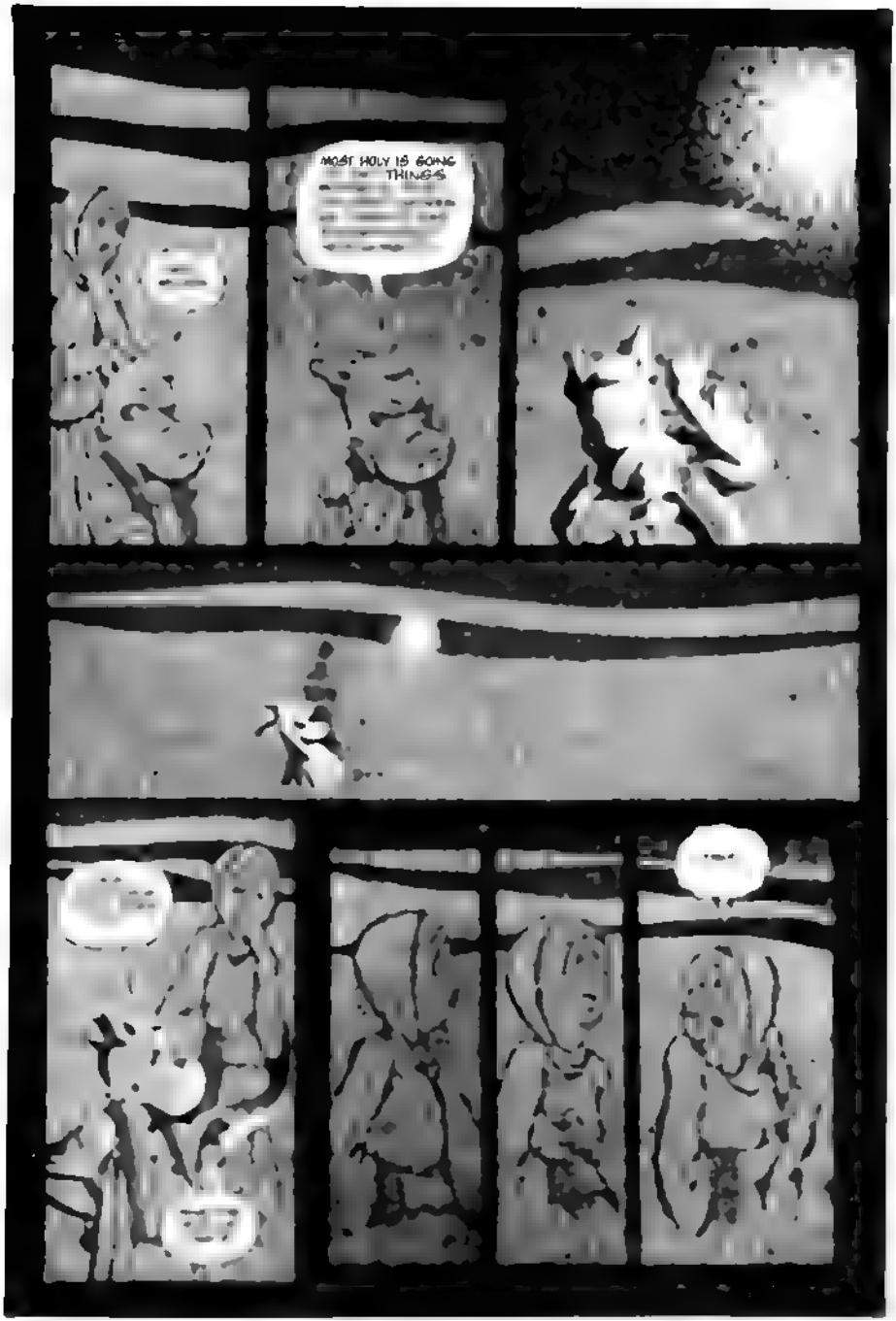
YESSIR, MR. TUCKER--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?
SEE IF ANY OF WELSSHAUPT'S LACKEYS ARE HANGING AROUND THE REGENCY DINING LOUNGE
I WANT TO SEE HIM...
..RIGHT AWAY.

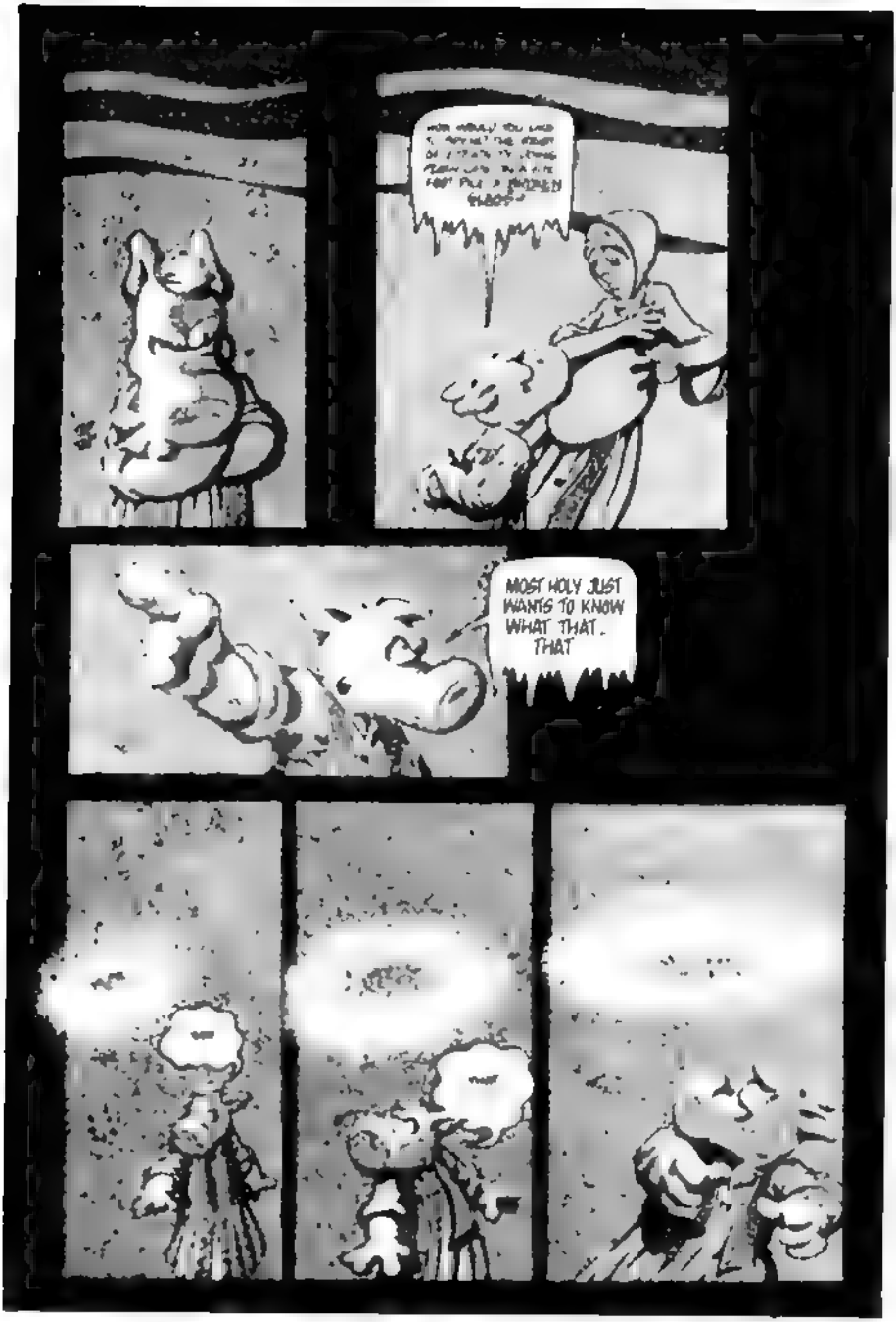
YOU'RE READING TOO MUCH INTO IT...
TAKING A BABY FROM ITS MOTHER'S ARMS AND THROWING IT TO THE CROWD? I TELL YOU ASTORIA IS STILL PULLING HIS STRINGS!
IT WAS VIRTUALLY A PAPAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE KEVILLISTS' VIEWPOINT...

HE'S TERRORIZING THEM PLAIN AND SIMPLE. YOU GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR SUBTLETY OF WHICH HE'S INCAPABLE...
NOT HIM, ABTORIA
IT WAS A CLEAR ALLEGORICAL GESTURE...
REALLY, NOW, THERESA YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS AN ALLEGORY
EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS AN ALLEGORY. LIFE ITSELF IS THE ULTIMATE ALLEGORY
YES
WELL
I'M NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SUDDEN INTEREST IN GOLD COINS ANY WAY...
EVERYTHING WILL WORK ITSELF OUT SO LONG AS NO ONE...
MR. PRESIDENT! THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BANK OF IEST DEMANDS TO SEE YOU--HE'S THREATENING TO SUSPEND TRADING ON LIMITED FELDWAR STATES BOND ISSUES
..PANICS.

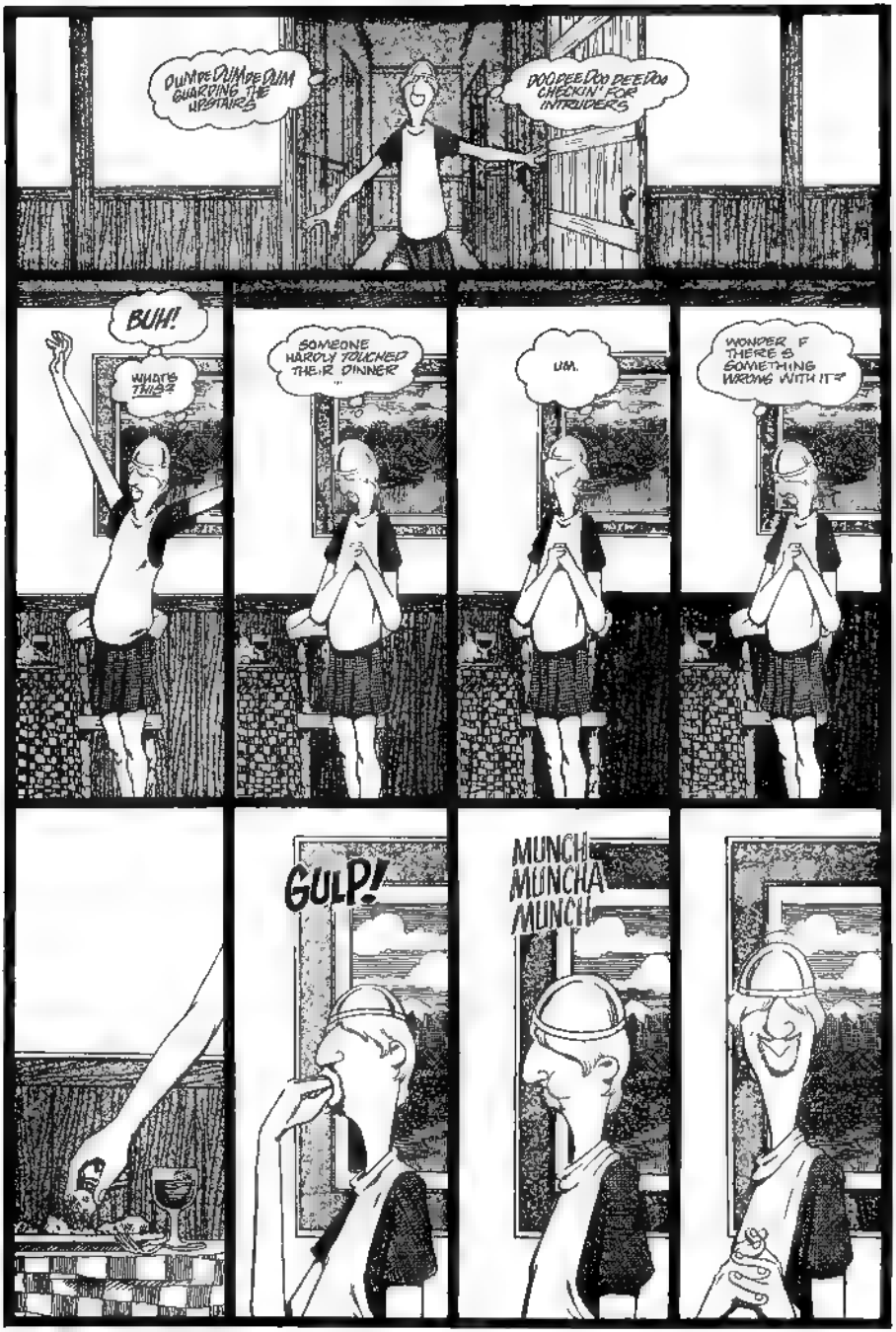
THE GUY SAYS HE CAN WHADDAYACALL REINFORCE THE FLOORS BUT HE LIKE, GAVES IT WILL BE EASIER IF YOU KEEP ALL OF THE WHADDAYACALL GOLD IN THE LOBBY.
HE SAYS IT'LL COST THREE HUNDRED IN WHADDAYA CALL PAPER MONEY OR A HUNDRED IN GOLD COINS
ASK HIM HOW HE FEELS ABOUT SPENDING THE REST OF ETERNITY STRIPPING THE BARK OFF OAK TREES WITH HIS FINGERNAILS...
OKEY DOKEY
AND THEN OFFER HIM FIFTY IN PAPER.
MOST HOLY IS FEELING GENEROUS TODAY.

MOST HOLY IS GOING TO GIVE A SPEECH
I AIN'T SURE IT HAS
AND THAT ITS PERFECTION
PERFECTION SINCE THE PERFECTION OF YOUR
MOST HOLY APPEARS
WINDOW.
WITH TWELVE DAYS TO GO, TARIM
THAT HE IS UP TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND GOLD COINS..."
"BUT THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY PEOPLE COMING TO MOST HOLY WITHOUT GOLD AND OFFERING THEIR LIVES INSTEAD..."
"WHAT YOU PEOPLE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT TARIM HAS HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH LIVES!"
"LIVES ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE! LIVES YOU CAN FIND ANYWHERE!"
"WHAT TARIM NEEDS IS GOLD COINS--LOTS OF

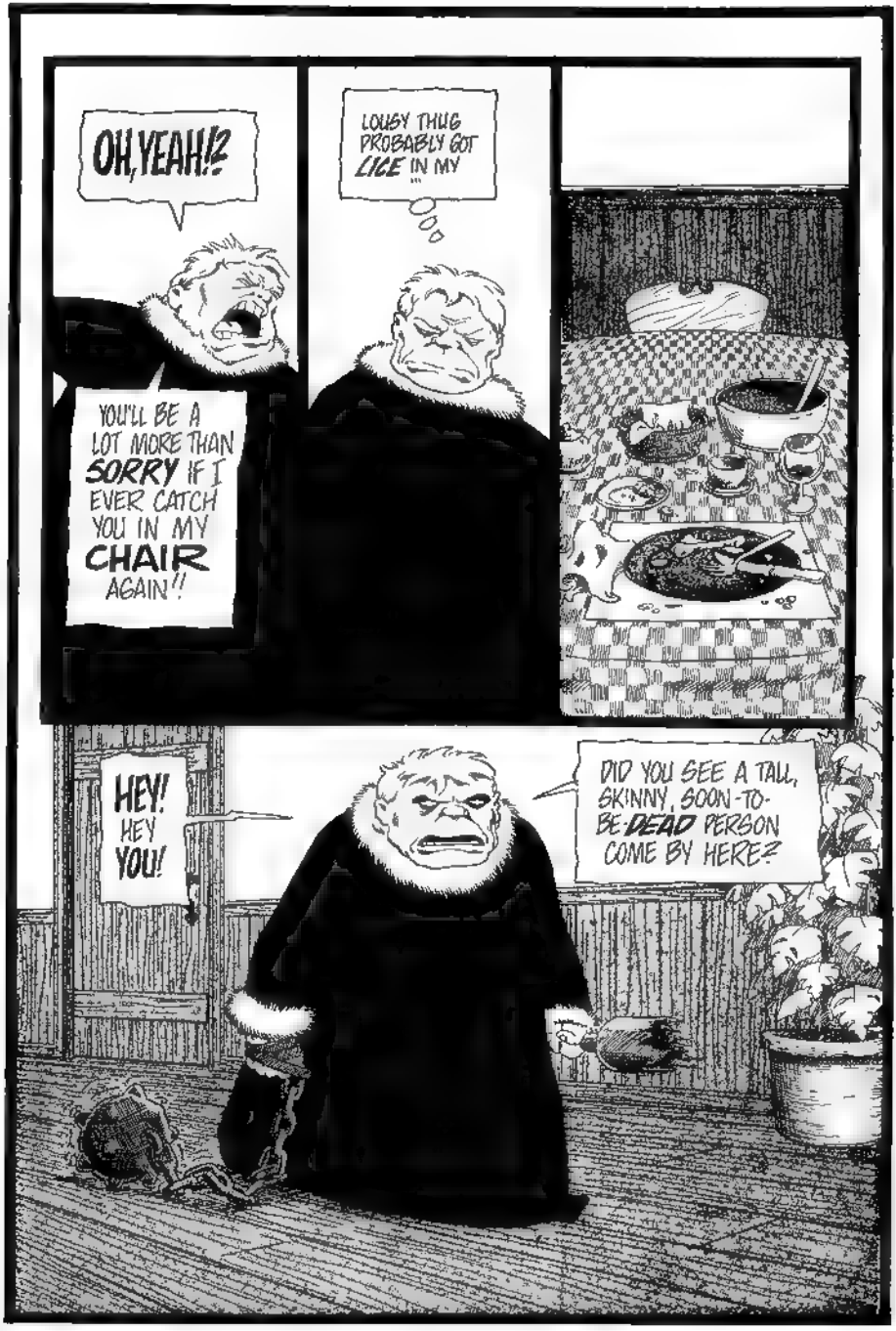

MOST HOLY IS GOING THINGS


MOST HOLY JUST WANTS TO KNOW WHAT THAT. THAT

THE NEXT TIME MOST HOLY SEES THAT THING, IF YOU CAN'T TELL MOST HOLY WHAT IT IS MOST HOLY WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN YOUR SLIPPERS!


DUM DE DUM DE DUM GUARDING THE UPSTAIRS
DOO DEE DOO DEE DOO CHECKIN' FOR INTRUDERS
BUH!
WHAT'S THIS?
SOMEONE HARDLY TOUCHED THEIR DINNER
UM.
WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?
GULP!
MUNCH MUNCHA MUNCH

BLOODY INCOMPETENTS --EVERY LAST ONE OF EM! BRING AN OLD LADY HER MEAL AND FORGET THE DAMN SALT!
MAKE ME WALK ALL THE WAY DOWN THE DAMN HALL IN MY FRAGILE CONDITION..
I HOPE IT TAKES HIM A WEEK TO PRY THAT SPATULA OUT OF HIS--
GURP!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHAIR?
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY


OH, YEAH!?
LOUSY THUG PROBABLY GOT LICE IN MY ...
YOU'LL BE A LOT MORE THAN SORRY IF I EVER CATCH YOU IN MY CHAIR AGAIN!!
HEY! HEY YOU!
DID YOU SEE A TALL, SKINNY, SOON-TO-BE-DEAD PERSON COME BY HERE?

IF YOU MEAN THE ONE WHO APOLOGIZES EVERY TIME HE HITS AN INANIMATE OBJECT, YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THAT TRAIL OF SPILLED PLANTS DOWN THE HALL AND TURN LEFT.
THANKS SPORT..

NEXT

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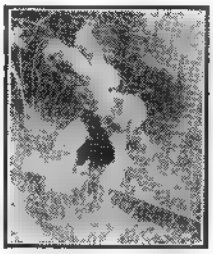

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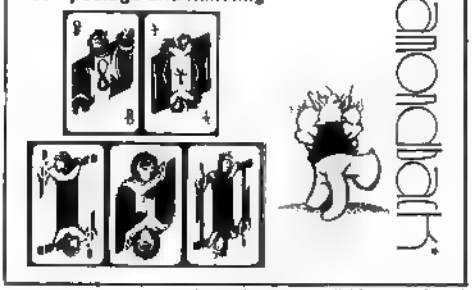

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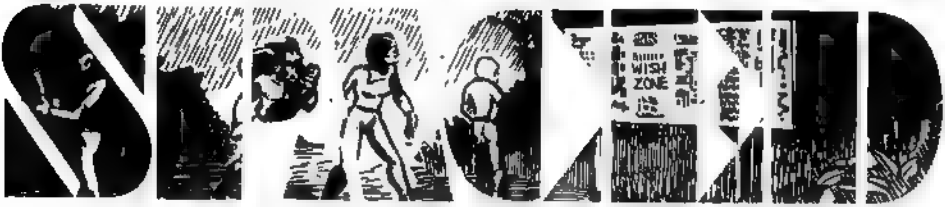
A UNIQUE STORY

EXPEDITION JOURNAL
CAPTAIN ORSON GROK

UPDATE:

THE TEAM HAS TRAVELED ON FOOT SEVERAL DAYS NOW. FOLIAGE IS GETTING DENSER AS WE MOVE FURTHER NORTH

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH INTELLIGENT LIFEFORMS, WE **HAVE** SEEN MANY ENCOURAGING SIGNS.



BY TOM STAZER and JOHN WILLIAMS ©1983 Tom STAZER

SPACED appears in its own bi-monthly comic, available at direct sale outlets, or directly from the publisher UNBRIDLED AMBITION, P.O. Box 500202, Houston, Tx. 77250-0202 $1.60 each plus $1.00 postage & handling.

WELL, THIS LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT CAMPSITE!
LIP, AMPLE! WE'RE STOPPING HERE!
COINCIDENCE.
THAT'S ALL, COINCIDENCE.
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT. I SAY IT WORKS!
EEEKK!!
IT DOES! IT WORKS!
STOP IT! I WANT MY CLOTHES BACK NOW!
SORRY! I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD
REALLY.
I WON'T. NEVER. NO I DIDN'T MEAN
WHAT'S THIS?! DAMN YOU, LIP, I THOUGHT YOU CARED FOR ME, NOT JUST MY BODY!
THAT WAS BEFORE I SAW IT'!
NO, I'm KIDDING!
LOOK, I'M TRYING, JUST GIVE ME A MOMENT!

HEY! CAP'N LOOK AT THAT, THE BROAD'S GOT NOTHIN ON!
RIGHT. SURE. DID YOU SNEAK ALONG SOME BEER AGAIN?! YOU'RE SMASHED, AREN'T YOU?
HUH? NOT ME, CAP'N HA! WISH I WAS!..
ERMF
SMAP!
GET IN YOUR BAG AND SLEEP IT OFF, SNIKT
AND I DON'T WANT TO CATCH YOU DRINKING ON DUTY AGAIN!!
MMMRFYFM
A BIT LATER...
WELL GUYS, I'M GOING TO TURN IN! YOU NEED A HAND WITH ANYTHING?
OH, NO THANKS, WE'RE FINE
SPAM
GOOD NOW GET SOME
UHH. SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME
LIP?
HMM? LIKE WHAT?

LIKE, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE
OH, YOU MEAN THIS? WE WISHED FOR IT DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN?
HAVE YOU AND SNIKT BEEN HITTING THE SAME STUFF?
NO, WATCH SEE SNIKT OVER THERE IN HIS SLEEPING BAG?
ZZIIPP!
HHEYYMMFF!
YOU SEE? YOU CAN WISH FOR ANYTHING!
OH YEAH?!
AAAAARRR!
...OKAY.. WHO DIES?!!
YOU WISHED FOR THIS?
NOT EXACTLY, BUT I CAN HANDLE IT!
TO BE CONTINUED!

APPEARANCE in CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Featuring Dave Sim, H Shelton Drum (Kingpin of the "Heroes Aren't Hard to Find" stores) and a cast of dozens.

▲ Dave: Allright, Shelton, I'm here. Let'em loose.
Shelton: Dive says it's awlraght C'mon guys.

▲ SFX: Shuffle shuffle shuffle
Dave: The way I see it, I'm setting the pace. Innovation, style, new directions, daring new concepts.
Fan in Window: Y'all used to be. Lately ah've had mo' laughs watchin old reruns o' "Muh Muther th' Core."

◀ Dave: "My Mother The Car"?! Har har. That's rich, I'll say. Let's see if you can develop some mutant powers before you hit the pavement.
Fan in Window: YAAAAH!
Shelton: Haw Haw. Ah don't mind He never paid his bills anyway

▶ Dave: Shelton! My God! That's a camera! They've got the whole thing on film
Shelton: Jeez, Dive, ahm awful sarry.

NEXT: Booked for manslaughter

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

To lead off this issue's letters page, I'd like to present two very lucid critiques of #63. Most of the letters divided pretty evenly pro and con. If there was ever any doubt that Cerebus continually tip-toes on the fine line between innovation and self-indulgence, (and that the reality of either is purely a subjective matter) Robert and Wolf's respective letters should eliminate it

* * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave

Though I have been a great fan of Cerebus for several years now, this is my first letter to your illustrious magazine. I didn't want to write it, believe me; I have kept my silence faithfully for a very long time, and hated to break it. I tried not to write this letter, to save my time and energy for some other, more fruitful endeavor. 'Ah', I said to myself, 'they'll never print it. They'll probably never even read it.' I tried, sir, Lord knows how I tried, but. I finally broke down. Cerebus #63 was just just too much. It was so unique, so different from anything else I have yet read in a comic, that I just had to comment on it. In fact, I've never seen anything like this book anywhere.

The layouts on #63 were bizarre, yet effective. The sizes and spacing of the panels accurately conveyed the progression of Cerebus' thoughts, both sober and intoxicated. When you used the small, double rows of panels while Cerebus was drunk, I almost felt drunk, as if I were seeing double. Marvelous effect!

Your depiction of Cerebus' thoughts, however, was what struck me the most. It was all very realistic, piece-meal and spontaneous like normal human thought. Actually, I found it all very similar to the 'stream of consciousness' writing of James Joyce. I don't know whether this similarity was intentional or not, but some passages could have come right from Joyce's pen. For instance "Weisshaupt. . . .Wise Hop. Wise Guy Hot. Prime Minister Whiskey Piskey. First you whiskey . then you piskey. More whiskey. Piskey." This is the first time I have observed this technique in a comic book, and I found it very original and effective.

This is what I love about Cerebus, what I couldn't keep quiet about any longer. You're not afraid to experiment, to try truly new and innovative approaches to graphic story-telling. Every issue, there's something different and exciting. Please, keep experimenting, keep pushing back the boundaries of the comic medium.

As for the earth-pig himself, I can't wait to see what happens next. Will the church's maneuvering finally derail Weisshaupt and free Cerebus? Will he finally get his damn ears unkinkled? Or will he end up yet another pawn, a tool used by the church against his former master, Weisshaupt? I hope he takes matters into his own hands soon, and breaks out of the whole power-play arena.

I have one thing to say about "Adventures in Limbo": it was weird and original, keeping with the approach of the rest of the book. I can't wait to see Burden's Flaming Carrot!

Keep up the good work.

Yours truly,

Robert T. Jeschonek

* * * * * * * * * *

Dave,

With each issue since #57, I have been increasingly disappointed. It is clear that you made Cerebus Prime Minister again because you couldn't think of anything else for him to do---at least that is how it appears to the local cadre of the Cerebus Fan Club. Members used to greet each other with what became our unofficial salute: 'Is it out yet?' Now we ask, 'Is it worth buying this month?'

You may not think much of their or my opinions (which seems likely, especially considering the off-hand manner in which you dispensed with Sith Katz's letter in #63), but I, for one, am tired of every other letter you publish effusing 'Your art is getting better with every issue', whereas it has been clearly declining since your peak in the mid-thirties. When have we seen such dramatic renditions as graced the closing page of #32? Who could have forseen then that in thirty-one issues Cerebus would be drawn largely by a Xerox machine? Offering nothing of substance to forward the plot, you apparently thought that gimmick of a puzzle would be enough to sell #63.

Maybe it is. I am not strong on marketing. But I am very disappointed. You used to treat your magazine as a craft. Now it appears that you're just seeing how little work you can get away with and still put out an issue every month. Dave Sim the Craftsman has become Dave Sim the Hack.

Of course, it might be argued that you are putting more work than ever into Cerebus. After all, taking four issues to present one line's worth of plot is no mean feat. At this rate, we may get the equivalent of a short story by the fabled issue #300---but will there be anyone around to read it?

Hoping for better,

Wolf Lahn Dubr
3635 Burke North,
Seattle, WA 98103

* * * * * * * * * *

Dear Alex Baumann,

I just had to congratulate you on your two gold medals in the recent Olympic Games. Too bad you didn't stay in France. We could do with a few more gold medals ourselves.

This seems to be my period for writing to Canadians; I've just sent another letter to a fellow Canadian who. . . Huh?
Dave? Dave Sim?
What are you doing here? Don't tell me I slipped this letter in the wrong envelope? Boy, is Alex Baumann ever going to be surprised when I start praising his grey aardvark!?

Well, since you are here, there's a very important question I might as well ask you: Is there going to be a sixth Swords of Cerebus? I thought there would be, but it has been ages since the fifth issue came out. And my collection still has a gap where there should be issues 21, 22 and 23!!!

Well, I know how bored you must be to get all the praise all the time so I'll skip this part. Say, aren't you glad?

Best,

Patrick Marcel
2 Residence Ophelie
Place La Fontaine
62630 Etaples, FRANCE

* * * * * * * * * *

SWORDS, VOLUME SIX

Shipping October 30th

(containing Cerebus 21-25
and a new Cerebus story
with Gerhard (Epic))

Deni & Dave,

I recently read Swords of Cerebus I-5 and loved them. Next I read Cerebus 57-63 and I feel lost.

I have neither the time, energy nor money (especially not the money) to search out and purchase issues 21-56. Are there ever going to be any more issues of Swords, and if so, when?

Think of it this way, if you publish them, I'll buy them. That's money in your pocket.

Yes, this is a bribe.

Lucas T. Williams
P.O. Box 9326
Stanford, CA 94305

Swords of Cerebus volume six will be shipping this fall. It will feature reprints of #'s 21 through 25 plus a cover featuring Katrina, Theresa and Janette drawn by me with backgrounds and colour by Gerhard as well as a new six page "Young Cerebus" story by Gerhard and I in black and white.

* * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave:

Dave, you poor innocent silly fool. Don't you realize that you've been duped? Can't you recognize a major international ultraclandestine conspiracy when it steps on your feet and stares at your nose?

For months now I've been scanning Cerebus for possible covert operations (keeping our kids safe from communist comic books, don't cha' know). While Cerebus seems to be clean (figuratively speaking of course), I cannot ignore the conspiracy which is running rampant in your letters sections. I am speaking about nothing less than the greatest threat to the upper midwest and Ontario that we have faced in this century. I speak of none other than Mike Bannon.

Yes, Mike Bannon, or should I say the Iowa Illuminati. You see Mike Bannon does not exist. He is a non-person (non not nun, we don't want to upset the Catholic Church now, do we?). Mike Bannon is the product of some of the most cunning minds in Iowa (which isn't saying much). By writing you these totally incomprehensible letters they hope to confuse you so much that you drive the A-V publishing empire into the ground. After that the Domino Theory takes over. First A-V, then Kitchener, then all of Ontario, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and finally Illinois. With the midwest in chaos, the Iowa Illiminati would step in, offering law and order in exchange for absolute power.

Please Dave, don't let this happen. I've been to Iowa, it is soooooooo dull. All they talk about is corn and cows and the weather. Do you know the first thing they plan to change when they take control? Comic books. That's right, the comic books that we all love will be changed to suit our new masters. Elfquest would become Cornquest. Neil the Horse would become Neil the Cow. E-Man would be changed to Weatherman. Of course, normalman would remain normalman. Please Dave, if not for Ontario, then for your faithful fans who helped put you through art school. You know, Barry Windsor-Smith would never let this happen.

What to do, I hear you cry. First, print this letter. Let the fiends know that we know what they're up to. Second, don't open any letters that come from Iowa. For that matter ignore letters that come from Central Minnesota or North Illinois (they might try to sneak over the border). Third, have the Royal Canadian Mounted Police attack Dubuque and Zwingle, Iowa. Four, send monetary contributions to Stop Iowa's Corn Kings (S.I.C.K.) to the address below.

If we all do our part, we can make the world safe for sensible letters.

Humbly yours,

Lance M. Smith
112 Eisenhower, Apt 9
Bloomington, ILL., 61701

PS: How did you know about the MIB's (Men in Bloomington)? That's supposed to be top secret.

PPS: How come 6 of your 8 letters are written by people whose first name begins with D. Hummm

PPPS: Would it help to get this published if I told you I pulled the Brinks job in order to buy a Cerebus Doll from Now and Then?

Until such time as the aerial reconnaissance photos are in and we have some preliminary information from our agents involved in covert operation Meadow Cookie we are treating Lance's letter as alarmist provocation by some as-yet-unidentified destabilizing third party interest and ask that until further notice monetary contributions be re-directed to Silo One, c/o this magazine. Please ignore all references to the Men in Bloomington.

Lance is quite right that all information pertaining to this group has an "Eyes Only" clearance rating.

* * * * * * * * * *

Mr. Sim-

That Phantom Stranger/Cerebus Story wasn't "a case of subconscious assimilation".

David Bachman will no longer have problems sleeping. Credit it to a "wildly improbably coincidence".

Be more careful in future letters of comment.

Time tells all tales.....

MIB
Oklahoma City Division

This conforms with our most recent intelligence that the Men in Bloomington (please ignore this reference) are moving south, having found the weather too cold and are prepared to launch a major offensive against Dallas, Texas with the express goal of holding the Dealey Lama hostage until we agree to lower the subscription rates on Flaming Carrot. It is our opinion at Aardvark-Vanaheim that they can run but they can't hide.

* * * * * * * * * *

Mr. Dave Sim,
You are a naughty man for saying such things to my daughter in your reply to her innocent inquiries (#62) and after ruining my best towel set such a short time previously (shameful, shameful man). I am appalled. If anyone ever said "1. You and me. 2. YOU AND ME! 3. A week from Thursday. 4. Mr. Cairo's. 5. Limousine, plane, limousine. 6. Guess. 7. Depends how much you weigh." to me, I would call the authorities. This sort of rudeness is deplorable and most certainly uncalled for.

distainfully yours,

Deb's mum,
15 Barrett Road,
Lexington, MA., 02173

Say, did anyone ever tell you you're cute when you're indignant?

* * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave 'n' Deni and that whole nutty kinda Aardvark-Vanaheim Crew:

RE: Mike Bannon's Legal Letter:

I bet you're all wondering what I think about this.

Well, fear not, because I, Derek McCulloch, will soon be seeing Mr. Bannon in court, thus relieving you of the pressure of his impending lawsuit. (An impending lawsuit is a lot like an impending one, only a whole lot more nasty).

What could I possibly have to sue him for, you ask? Only this: Since the summer of 1983 when I became President of The Mike Bannon Fan

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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM INC.

BOX 1674 STATION "C" KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA N2G 4R2

Club and Editor/Publisher of its newsletter, I have held the international copyright of the name "Mike Bannon". For over a year now, he has been using that name without my permission.

I have documented evidence; reams of "Mike Bannon" stationery that I never okayed. Money orders with "Mike Bannon" signed on them. This has gone on long enough; there has to be someone willing to put a stop to the whole ugly situation.

Oh, and just in case you think this is all evidence of bitterness and in-fighting on a level not seen since the Beatle broke up, it's not! I love that little mug like he was my second cousin. I just want his money, that's all.

Jurisprudently,

Derek McCulloch
Ex-President, Mike Bannon Fan Club
1056-73 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
T6K 2S8

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave and Deni:

RE: Mike Bannon's Legal Letter:

I bet you're all wondering what I think about this, too.

Well, to tell you the truth, it's given me the trots something awful.

Much more sincerely than Derek,

Rob McCulloch
Vice-President-in-Exile,
Mike Bannon Fan Club
1056-73 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
T6K 2S8

P.S. You know, if you don't print these letters, we just might sue you too.

The things I do just to keep myself out of court. And just to finish things off on the right foot, here's Mike Bannon's newest coded messages for all his fellow conspirators:

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave:

Re: "Whoop."

Yes, "Whoop." This is a splendid word, one that makes a fellow feel like dancing out loud. It has a rich history of usage – it was Thomas Jefferson's favorite word, next to "splitinfinitive" – and is still used by kings and worm-eaters alike. I'm sure many people have noticed that it has made a guest appearance on every one of the two hundred and forty-nine episodes of "The Andy Griffith Show."

So why has Cerebus **consistently** avoided using it? It's not as if Dave is unfamiliar with the word... everyone knows that he was once The High Pooh-Bah of a church devoted to the study of scriptures of Barney Fife.. so **why?** It's the perfect word for Cerebus. It fits him like a tight hat.

I can see it perfectly....Cerebus comes home from work. He's had a rough subway ride and is plenty touchy (believe you me). Red Sophia greets him at the door with a cheery, "Did you pick up the loaf of bread and box of gerbil food?" Cerebus looks at her, shifts his cigar from one side of his mouth to the other, and growls, **"Whoops!"** I mean, come on, Dave! You can't tell me that this scene hasn't **occured** to you!

But please don't think that I'm trying to pick on you..... It's just that I want to see you grow as an artist -- and, frankly, **no** artist has (to my knowledge) ever produced a classic, enduring piece of art without using "whoops", "whoop", "whooped", "whooping", "whooply", or, best of all, "whoop-de-whoop".

Think about it. It all falls into place, doesn't it? Say yes.

Whooply yours,

Mike Bannon
2453 Martin Drive
Dubuque, IOWA 52001

No, Mike.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave, Deni, and Karen:

I dunno, I'm still disappointed by the recent lack of abusive mail that Aardvark Comment has fallen prey to. (You're right, that sentence needs a lube job.) Take the letter in #64 from Anthony Padilla.

He asked Dave for a sketch. Dave said Uh-Uh. The end. Boy, that bit of aggravation was **nipped** in the **bud**! (Several times, in fact.) Now, if Dave had played his cards right, he might have enjoyed a really miserable afternoon of torment. But no.... for some reason, Dave has become easy-going and good-natured.

Now **wait** a minute! Are we talking about Dave Sim or Jimmy Olsen? Where's that grouchy Dave Sim charisma we've come to know and tolerate? It brings tears to my eyes to imagine Dave well-adjusted.

Don't worry, everyone deserves a second chance. Okay, here we go:

Say, Dave, can I have all your original artwork when you're done with it?

There you go,

Mike Bannon
2453 Martin Drive,
Dubuque, IOWA 52001

I don't see why not, Mike. Hell, no one's ever written to ask me before. Just as soon as I can save up enough money for a couple of steamer trunks and the air freight, I'll get the pages to you right away. There are some pages missing, but as soon as I can buy them back, I'll be sure to send them along as well. Thanks for helping me clear a little space in the office, Mike. You're a prince---- an absolute prince.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

DAVE SIM and GERHARD:

September 23rd
KING KON COMIC and FANTASY CONVENTION
East Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan

September 30th
AMERICON
Le Baron Hotel
1350 North First St.
San Jose, CA

October 2nd
ANDROMEDA BOOKS
741 Dela Querra Plaza
Santa Barbara, CA

October 3rd
HI DE HO COMICS
525 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA

DAVE SIM (only):

November 23rd - 25th
THANKSGIVING DALLAS FANTASY FESTIVAL
Dallas, Texas

December 1st and 2nd
THE AUGUSTA MINI-CON
Ramada Inn
1365 Gordon Highway
Augusta, GA.

DAVE SIM and GERHARD:

December 6th and 7th
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